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Department of State

428

INCOM EXCISE

TELEGRAM

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ACTION INM-05

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 IO-15 NSC-05 JRA-15
NSAE-00 CTMF-00 TRSE-00 CMS-01 OES-09 JUS-01 ICAE-00
SP-02 /065 W

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R 091224Z DEC 87
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9966
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 BOGOTA 13081

E.O. 12065: GDS 12/07/87 (BERNAL, CAESAR) OR-O
TAGS: SNAR, CO
SUBJECT: VISIT OF INM ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS MATTERS DOMINICK L. DICARLO VISITED COLOMBIA NOVEMBER 15-20 TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE NARCOTICS SITUATION IN COLOMBIA AND US PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT GOC ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS. WITH DAS CLYDE TAYLOR, MR. DICARLO MET WITH ALL GOC MINISTERS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS AND LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS THE AMBASSADOR AND RELEVANT MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY TEAM. ACCOMPANIED BY MISSION NARCOTICS COORDINATOR (DCM), AS WELL AS STATE AND DEA OFFICERS, THEY VISITED AND WITNESSED DESTRUCTION OF COCA AND MARIHUANA CULTIVATIONS AND PROCESSING FACTORIES IN THE EASTERN PLAINS. THEY ALSO SPENT A NIGHT IN THE CARIBBEAN ABOARD THE PATROL BOAT PROVIDED BY THE USG TO COLOMBIAN CUSTOMS AND WITNESSED THE BURNING OF APPROXIMATELY FORTY TONS OF MARIHUANA. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY PROVIDED GOC OFFICIALS A FIRST HAND DESCRIPTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO FORGE A MORE EFFECTIVE BALANCE BETWEEN ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION IN OUR DOMESTIC ANTINARCOTICS CAMPAIGN AS WELL AS OUR SUPPORT FOR PROGRAMS OVERSEAS. DESPITE BUDGET CUTS, HE STRESSED, THE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THOSE PROGRAMS WHICH HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE. MESSRS DICARLO AND TAYLOR STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE USE OF HERBICIDES TO ERADICATE MARIHUANA PRODUCTION AND CLARIFIED GOC OFFICIALS' MISUNDERSTANDINGS CONCERNING PARAQUAT. THEY ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT HOW THE USG DEALS WITH DOMESTIC MARIHUANA CULTIVATION WILL AFFECT ERADICATION EFFORTS BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS. FROM THE EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW, THE VISIT WAS MOST USEFUL IN REINFORCING FOR THE GOC OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE COOPERATE THE US COMMITMENT TO AND SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS. THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS DESCRIBE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S PRINCIPAL CONVERSATIONS WITH GOC OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

3. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: ASSISTANT SECRETARY DICARLO EXPLAINED TO ATTORNEY GENERAL DR. GUILLERMO GONZALEZ CHARRY THAT USG ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS BOTH AT HOME AND OVERSEAS WOULD BE BALANCED BETWEEN INTERDICTION AND ERADICATION. HE WENT ON TO PRAISE THE CLOSE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S INM-SUPPORTED AIRWING (THREE HELICOPTERS AND ONE FIXED WING AIRCRAFT) AND THE NATIONAL POLICE'S GROUND FORCES IN THE COCA AND MARIHUANA CULTIVATING ZONES OF THE EASTERN PLAINS (LLANOS) AND THE MARIHUANA GROWING AND EXPORTING AREAS ON THE NORTH COAST. GONZALEZ CHARRY INQUIRED ABOUT THE USE OF HERBICIDES FOR ERADICATION AND DAS TAYLOR DESCRIBED IN DETAIL THE HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE PARAQUAT ISSUE, INCLUDING THE PERCY AMENDMENT. WHEN

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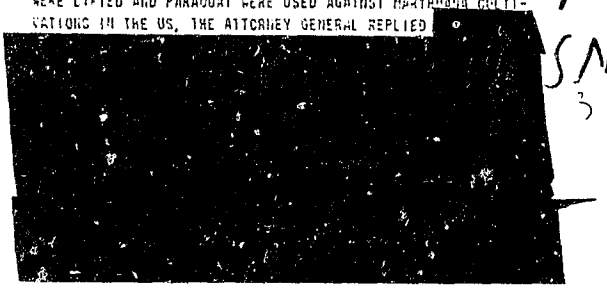
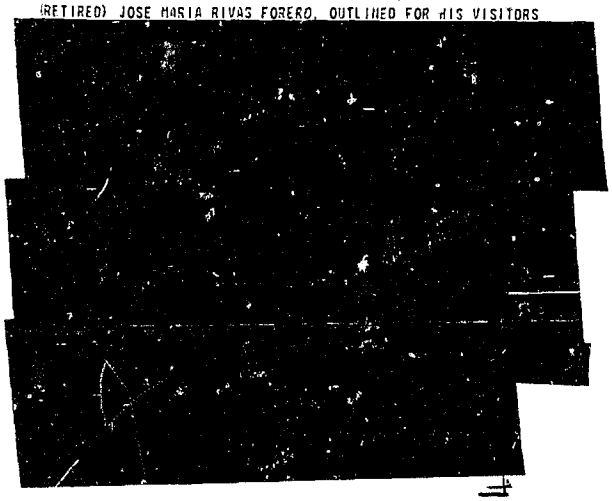
ABOUT GOC ATTITUDES AND PERFORMANCE IF THE PERCY AMENDMENT WERE LIFTED AND PARAQUAT WERE USED AGAINST MARIHUANA CULTIVATIONS IN THE US, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL REPLIED



4. CUSTOMS: THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CUSTOMS, GENERAL (RETIRED) JOSE MARIA RIVAS FORERO, OUTLINED FOR HIS VISITORS



DEPARTMENT OF STATE/A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY E.B. Rowell DATE 1/26/88
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐
RELEASE DENIED ☒ in part
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS 552(b)(1) EO 13526 §3.1

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[redacted] DITO

5. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE: DEFENSE MINISTER GENERAL LUIS CARLOS CAMACHO LEYVA [redacted] DITO DAS TAYLOR NOTED THAT THE USE OF PARAQUAT WAS NOT ILLEGAL IN THE US. AS WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, HE GAVE THE MINISTER A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE HISTORY OF THE PERCY AMENDMENT AND STRESSED THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE THAT PARAQUAT IS HARMFUL TO SOIL OR HUMAN HEALTH. THE MINISTER REQUESTED COPIES OF ALL AVAILABLE REPORTS ON THE IMPACT OF PARAQUAT ON HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT. DICARLO AND TAYLOR AGREED TO PROVIDE THEM. WHEN ASKED IF THE GOC WOULD USE PARAQUAT PROVIDED THE PERCY AMENDMENT WERE LIFTED AND THE HERBICIDE WERE USED IN THE US, CAMACHO LEYVA REPLIED [redacted] DITO

6. THE DEFENSE MINISTER ASSERTED [redacted] ASSISTANT SECRETARY DICARLO REPLIED THAT THE US WAS UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE SUCH ASSISTANCE DUE TO BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS AND TO THE FACT THAT NEITHER COCA NOR MARIHUANA WERE TRADITIONAL CROPS IN THE LLANOS, UNLIKE COCA IN PERU, BOLIVIA, AND EVEN AREAS OF COLOMBIA. TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WHO CULTIVATED THE ILLEGAL CROPS, BUT NOT TO THOSE WHO DID NOT, WOULD BE UNJUST AND LIKELY WOULD ENCOURAGE INCREASED PRODUCTION OF COCA AND MARIHUANA. CAMACHO LEYVA SEEMED TO TAKE THE POINT.

7. IN CLOSING, THE MINISTER [redacted] DITO MR. DICARLO CONFIRMED THAT THE FUNDS WERE STILL AVAILABLE TO THE NAVY AND ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE PURCHASE OF A PATROL BOAT WOULD BE A GOOD USE OF THEM. SEVERAL TIMES DURING THE DISCUSSION THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY CITED THE EXCELLENT ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS TO THE COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES (WHICH INCLUDE THE NATIONAL POLICE) AND PARTICULARLY THE COORDINATION AMONG THE SERVICES IN TESTIMONY TO CAMACHO LEYVA'S LEADERSHIP.

8. MESSRS DICARLO AND TAYLOR THEN MET WITH THE DEFENSE MINISTRY'S NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, BRIGADIER GENERAL ALBERTO

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ANDRADE ANAYA, WHO DESCRIBED [redacted] DITO

9. NATIONAL POLICE. MAJOR GENERAL FRANCISCO JOSE MARANJO FRANCO, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL POLICE, OBSERVED [redacted] DITO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY PRAISED THE NATIONAL POLICE'S ANTINARCOTICS EFFORTS IN THE LLANOS AS WELL AS ON THE NORTH COAST. HE PROPOSED FOR THE GENERAL'S CONSIDERATION A SYSTEMATIC EFFORT BY THE POLICE WITH SUPPORT FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S AIR WING TO DESTROY COCA PLANTATIONS IN THE LLANOS. UNLIKE MARIHUANA, COCA CAN BE UPROOTED EASILY BY HAND, HE NOTED, AND A SYSTEMATIC EFFORT NOW WOULD BE A MAJOR BLOW TO COCA CULTIVATION BEFORE THAT CROP--WHICH IS NEW TO THE LLANOS-- GETS OUT OF CONTROL. MARANJO FRANCO [redacted] DITO

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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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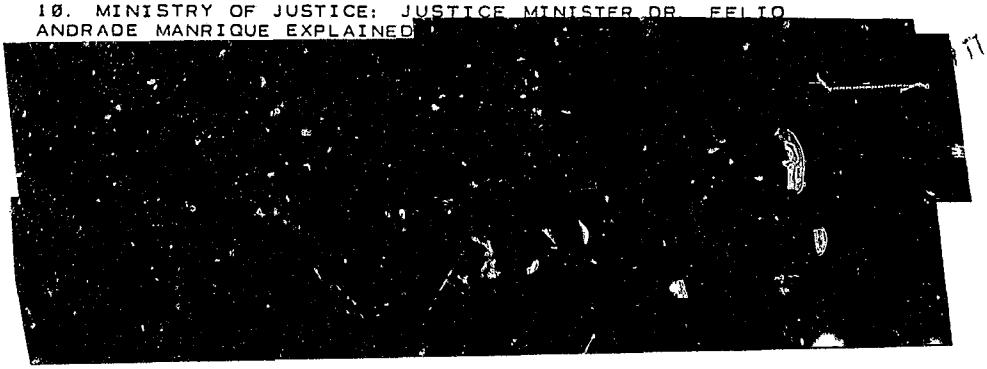
ACTION INM-06

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 CIAE-00 IO-15 NSC-05 ARA-16
NSAE-00 CTME-00 IRSE-00 OMB-01 OBS-00 JUS-01 ICAE-00
SP-02 /055 W
154436 092038Z /50

R 091324Z DEC 81
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9968
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 BOGOTA 13081

10. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE: JUSTICE MINISTER DR. FELIO ANDRADE MANRIQUE EXPLAINED



11. COMMENT: FROM THE EMBASSY'S PERSPECTIVE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S VISIT WAS VERY USEFUL, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF REINFORCING THE USG'S COMMITMENT TO ANTINARCOTICS PROGRAMS AT HOME AND OVERSEAS, PARTICULARLY IN COLOMBIA, AND IN CLARIFYING MISUNDERSTANDINGS ABOUT THE LEGALITY AND EFFECTS OF HERBICIDES. CURRENT COLOMBIAN DRUG ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS ARE AS SERIOUS AND EFFECTIVE AS COULD BE EXPECTED. FOR A MAJOR LEAP FORWARD, ERADICATION OF MARIHUANA AND COCA IS ESSENTIAL. WHILE WE AGREE WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT HERBICIDES PROBABLY COULD NOT BE USED GENERALLY UNTIL SOMETIME IN LATE 1982, EVEN IF SPRAYING IS BEGUN IN THE US BEFORE THEN, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT WE BEGIN NOW TO COUNTER THE WIDESPREAD PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT PARAQUAT IS ILLEGAL AND HARMFUL. WE PROPOSE, THEREFORE, THAT IN ADDITION TO SENDING THE REPORTS PROMISED THE DEFENSE MINISTER, E INM WORK WITH ICA TO DEVELOP ARTICLES ON HERBICIDES WHICH MAY BE PLACED IN THE LOCAL PRESS, PARTICULARLY AS PARAQUAT IS USED TO DESTROY MARIHUANA IN THE US. WE FURTHER RECOMMEND THAT THE ISSUE OF HERBICIDAL DESTRUCTION OF COCA BE EXAMINED. FINALLY, WE REITERATE THAT, UNTIL WE BEGIN TO ERADICATE MARIHUANA EFFECTIVELY IN THE US, WE ARE IN A WEAK POSITION TO URGE THE COLOMBIANS TO DO SO HERE.
WATSON.

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